



NEWS RELEASE

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Gang Member Sentenced for Killing Youth Pastor in Pomona

A 29-year-old gang member was sentenced yesterday afternoon to 34 years and four months in state prison for a walk-up shooting he committed in 2013, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

At yesterday's court appearance, Arvin Benson of Pomona pleaded no contest to three felony counts in case KA110610: one count of voluntary manslaughter and two counts of attempted murder.

The defendant also admitted gun and gang allegations.

Deputy District Attorney Martin Bean of the Hardcore Gang Division, who prosecuted the case, said on Nov. 11, 2013, victim Daniel Diaz was sitting in a vehicle with two others at a stop sign in Pomona when Benson reportedly walked up to their vehicle and shot at the car several times.

Diaz, a 33-year-old youth pastor, was struck by the gunfire. The victim was taken to the hospital for medical treatment, but ultimately succumbed to his injuries, the prosecutor said.

Authorities began an investigation into the shooting and through a tip from the public learned Benson was the suspected shooter. Benson was apprehended the next month and charged on Sept. 8, 2015, in connection with the killing.

The case was investigated by the Pomona Police Department.

[About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#)

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.